

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

Work is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 22, to remove approximately 50 mature trees infested with the Asian longhorned beetle and surrounding high-risk host trees in the area of Linden between the New Jersey Turnpike and the Arthur Kill.

This marks the start of eradication in an area that officials now believe has served as a jumping-off point for the beetle to infest other trees in Union County. Program personnel began looking at the largely industrial area after individual trees in parts of Linden were infested without large numbers of trees surrounding them showing signs of the beetle. Computer modeling suggested the beetles may have been coming from the industrial area, which at the time was outside the existing quarantine zone. A subsequent survey of that area found additional infestation.

The quarantine zone is being expanded again in response to an infested tree found in northwestern Linden in late-April. The new zone will stretch into a small portion of eastern Clark Township, making Clark the seventh municipality to be touched by the Middlesex-Union quarantine. The quarantine began with infested-tree finds in Carteret, Rahway, Woodbridge and Linden in 2004 and has expanded as new finds have surfaced in Linden to include Roselle Borough, Elizabeth and now Clark.

To date, no infested trees have been found in Roselle or Elizabeth. Ground surveying will be conducted in the coming weeks on trees in northwestern Linden and the eastern corner of Clark, now included in the quarantine zone, to ensure that the beetle has not spread.

To date, 579 infested trees have been detected in the Middlesex-Union Infestation, and 529 have been removed. In addition, 16,614 high-risk host trees have been removed from the Middlesex-Union infestation since November 2004.